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**STATEMENTS OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
LEADERS FOLLOWING TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE
ANNOUNCING DNA GRANTS TO CRIME LABS IN CALIFORNIA**

SACRAMENTO - Following a press conference at which Sarah V. Hart, Director of the National Institute of Justice, announced that the Justice Department has awarded \$9.9 million in DNA grants throughout California, federal, state, and local law enforcement leaders commented on the grants.

"This is a great day for the citizens of California in general and for law enforcement in particular," said United States Attorney McGregor Scott. "These grants will ensure that full advantage is taken of DNA technology to see that the guilty are found and the innocent are exonerated. Our citizens will directly benefit from these grants through safer communities."

"The use of DNA science has revolutionized the work of law enforcement," California Attorney General Bill Lockyer said. "Every day we improve public safety by using DNA to identify criminals, exonerate the innocent, and provide justice to victims. These grant funds will help law enforcement agencies throughout the state expand their DNA programs in order to create an even healthier and safer California." Lockyer, who has made use of DNA technology a priority during his tenure as attorney general, noted that in the past five years the state DNA lab has made nearly 1,000 hits on offenders and case-to-case links and is now averaging a hit per day.

Solano County District Attorney David Paulson, president of the California District Attorney's Association, said "This initiative provides critical help for California by enabling us to realize the full potential of DNA technology for crime solving. With a population of over 35 million people and hundreds of thousands of criminal investigations being conducted annually by California's law enforcement, taking advantage of

current advances in DNA technology is a crucial step towards determining the identity of suspects."

Behind each and every one of the hundreds of hits that have been made is a compelling story about the impact of crime on its victims, society, and the justice that flows from finding the criminals. A few dramatically show the power of DNA to protect public safety and provide justice for victims and their families.

In 2001, the California Attorney General's DNA Lab made a hit on David James McIntosh for the 1984 sexual assault and murder of a 13-year-old girl in Tehama County. At the time, McIntosh had just 30 days left on an unrelated case from being released from Folsom Prison for parole violations associated with a conviction for failing to register as a sex offender. In August 2003, McIntosh was convicted of 1st degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

In 1993, two young friends, boys ages 9 and 12, were riding their bicycles in San Diego on the banks on the Otay River. The boys were later found brutally murdered. San Diego authorities invested more hours in this investigation than any other homicide case in San Diego history, but DNA evidence was not yet in widespread use. In 2001, samples from sperm, skin scrapings, and saliva from cigarette butts found at the murder scene were developed into a DNA profile that was searched against the California Attorney General's DNA Data Bank in 2001. The search resulted in a hit on Scott Erskine, a known offender with an extensive criminal history including sexual assaults on women, boys, and girls. Erskine was convicted and sentenced to death for the crimes on September 4, 2004.

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